Application of a Systems Model for Evaluation of Community Capacity and Infrastructure for Program Implementation and Sustainability

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Background

• Texas Department of Health (TDH) *Texas Tobacco Prevention Initiative*
  
  – Small grants to community agencies to implement tobacco prevention and control (TPC) initiatives
Desired Outcomes:
- Decrease youth initiation of tobacco use
- Increase adult and youth tobacco cessation
- Reduce exposure to second hand smoke
- Reduce disparities among diverse and special populations

Categories of Programs to be Implemented:
- School and community programs
- Cessation
- Enforcement
- Media

Required Input:
- Agencies with capacity to implement programs
- Coalitions with capacity to concert programs across settings
- Communities with capacity to accept and sustain comprehensive effort to achieve the goals

Administration and Management:
Provided through Texas Department of Health

Surveillance and Evaluation including Capacity Analysis
Analysis

• Written survey to assess at both community and agency level:
  1. Current status of impact and implementation of TPC
  2. Availability of elements of “required input” for planning, implementing, and sustaining TPC
  3. Assets and barriers which may influence future tobacco control initiatives
• 59% (39/66) of agencies responded representing 15 communities
**Numbers of communities with indicators of capacity for TPC in 2002 shown by PHR and by indicator* (n=15)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators of Community Capacity</th>
<th>Number of Communities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attributes</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Broad based citizen participation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Citizen involvement is broad based</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Involves citizens from all community sectors</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Adequate numbers of staff &amp; volunteers</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local leadership</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community resources</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Donations, matching funds, in-kind contributions</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Adequate skills for planning &amp; implementing</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Adequate amounts of time, money, &amp; skills</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inclusive decision making</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Local leadership guides decision making</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Includes youth &amp; persons of diverse backgrounds</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication network with media links</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Communication links across groups and agencies</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Direct communication with key local leaders</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Two-way communications with state and national</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach and feedback mechanisms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Outreach to diverse &amp; special populations</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Local evaluation and feedback</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* A community was counted as having a given attribute when the average score across key informants for that community was greater than 2.5.
Percentage of communities in which a very/moderately positive impact was reported for TPC goals in 2002 shown by goal areas (n=15)

- Protecting public from SHS: 67%
- Reducing tobacco use in special and diverse populations: 67%
- Motivating cessation: 87%
- Preventing youth from starting tobacco: 93%
Results

• The majority of agencies (74%) reported their TPC efforts to be very or extremely effective.

• However, only 2 of 39 agencies reported having a two- or three-year written plan for their program.
Conclusions

• **Strengths**
  - Broad based citizen participation;
  - Leadership through coalition or task force;
  - Inclusive decision-making that draws on local leadership and experience;
  - Communication and information network that includes media links; and
  - Outreach mechanisms and feedback.

• **Barriers**
  - Lack of funding
  - Politics
  - Competing priorities
  - The presence of persons who smoke
Recommendations

• Ensure that local leaders are informed about training available to support capacity building.
• Establish a system of ongoing dialogue with leaders in communities.
• Share results of research with communities – provide feedback.
• Provide technical assistance and guidance to support development of local long-range plans that build on success.
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